

# **\*\*ATTENTION\*\***

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4/89

**Green-tailed Towhee**

*Pipilo chlorurus*

Range:

Breeds at higher elevations from central Oregon south to southern California and southeastern New Mexico. Winters at lower elevations south into Mexico.

Washington Distribution:

Presumably breeds in the Blue Mountains of Washington (Jewett, et al. 1953). Only one breeding record (Asotin County) has been confirmed in the last 50 years.

Habitat Requirements:

Green-tailed towhees are found at higher elevations where sagebrush and pine communities meet and intermingle. In Oregon, they also inhabit desert communities where pine is not present. This species breeds in late May and June and remains until September; nests have been found in low bushes within a few feet of the ground (Gabrielson and Jewett 1970). Towhees feed on the ground, consuming seeds and insects. Foraging generally takes place under dense vegetative cover (Martin, et al. 1951).

Limiting Factors:

Unknown.

Management Recommendations:

Protect sagebrush and pine communities where nesting green-tailed towhees occur. Restrict burning, intensive grazing, and mechanical alteration of vegetation in the vicinity of towhee nests. Do not remove brush from areas used by towhees for nesting or foraging.

Spraying of biocides that reduce insect populations, shrub cover, or seed availability could be detrimental to green-tailed towhees. If spraying is unavoidable, control programs should be scheduled so as to avoid the nesting season, from May 15 to September 15. Aerial application of chemicals should not occur adjacent to towhee habitat when winds exceed 6 miles/hour.

References:

Gabrielson, I.N. and S.G. Jewett. 1970. Birds of the Pacific Northwest. Dover Publications, Inc., New York.

Jewett, S.G., W.P. Taylor, W.T. Shaw, and J.W. Aldrich. 1953. Birds of Washington State. Univ. of Wa. Press, Seattle.

Martin, A.C., H.S. Zim, and A.L. Nelson. 1951. American wildlife and plants. Dover Publ., Inc., New York.